By
MIKE W. BARR
MARY MITCHELL
JOHN TIGHE
TOM MANDRAKE

Full-Color Series!

$2.50 U.S./$2.95 Can.

Innovation welcomes fan-favorite cover illustrator **Tom Mandrake** and returning penciller **Mary Mitchell** to this issue of *THE MAZE AGENCY*!

Join New York's prettiest detective, Jennifer Mays, and true crime writer Gabriel Webb, in another fair-play whodunit that challenges you to solve the mystery as it unfolds!

THIS ISSUE: In "Valentine's Slay," the boyfriend of Jennifer Mays' secretary *Sandy* is assaulted with a bow and arrow.

Is it the work of "The Cupid," who is terrorizing gays in Greenwich Village? Or is it the work of a copycat killer?

Heart Attack!

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INNOVATION™

This May, We'll Be *LOST IN SPACE*!

In cooperation with Viacom, Innovation will premiere the release of an all-new ***LOST IN SPACE*** full-color series in May '91 with the involvement of Bill Mumy -- Will Robinson of the original 1960s TV series. "What Marvel and DC and CBS and 20th Century Fox couldn't achieve, you did," read an October '90 letter from author/actor/musician Bill Mumy to Innovation. "You get to tell new stories. To add to the legacy. Congratulations."

Based nearly three years after the conclusion of the original series, Innovation's ***LOST IN SPACE*** updates concepts from the original series but with the attitudes of the '90s. The Robinson family will still find themselves lost in space in 1997, although the depth of background, character and motivational aspects, and subtexts have been fully thought out.

"Expect this series to be much more realistic and exciting than the original show. How did we get the technology to make a space sojourn by 1997? What happened to the space program back on Earth?" asks series editor David Campiti. "How do they deal with the skewed family unit, considering John and Maureen Robinson have each other, Don West has Judy, but Penny and Will are well into their teens and never colonized with the others that were to follow them into space?"

"It's still *Lost In Space*, taking the best elements of early episodes of the show," explains Innovation's art director and series co-editor George Broderick, "but it no longer has the silly sensibilities of the 1960s Batman show it was battling back then, in the ratings."

"Several months ago," recalls Campiti, "I read in the *Comics Buyer's Guide* about Bill Mumy accepting the assignment of writing Valiant's resurrection of Gold Key's *Space Family* liant's resurrection of Gold Key's *Space Family Robinson* while lamenting that he'd never get the chance to do a comics version of the show he starred in." Innovation, it turned out, was already in touch with Viacom, and soon secured the rights virtually without a hitch. "I'd spoken with Viacom about various properties for licensing mentioned that I couldn't see *Lost In Space* being done in the same tone as the old show. When they asked, 'Well, what would you do with it?' -- thinking on my feet -- I pitched an opening and direction they appreciated and approved. I wouldn't have gone after it if I hadn't read Bill's interview. It was a case of, 'Here I am, able to make a dream come true,' so I did it.

"At San Diego Con, I approached Bill, congratulated him on *Space Family Robinson*, and pulled out an original painting by Mike Okamoto, while saying, 'So: How would you like to work on the real thing?' Originally, Bill couldn't believe we'd secured the rights," says Campiti. "But we supplied him with a copy of the contracts and our ideas about what we hoped to do with the project. After double-checking everything, Bill called us, anxious to begin work."

"I must admit, I was very skeptical," says Bill Mumy. "I figured if DC couldn't do it, and Marvel couldn't do it, then Innovation couldn't do it. I was wrong -- I guess that's why they call them 'Innovation.'"

Since then, David Campiti and Innovation's Art Director George Broderick have been discussing ideas with Bill Mumy, David Lawrence, and popular writer William Messner-Loebs to firm up a direction for the series' initial 12-issue run.

David Campiti and George Broderick have plotted the first issue, which is scripted by Matt Thompson and painted by Eddy Newell. Broderick has scripted issue #2, which Matt Thompson will paint. Bill Mumy has turned in a two-part storyline for #3 and #4; George Broderick is writing a "special revelations" story intended for issue #5; David Lawrence is developing plotlines; and William Messner-Loebs is hoping to find time in his schedule to write an issue. Innovation is actively encouraging stories from some of the best in the business, as well as enticing other members of the original cast -- such as Mark (pilot Don West) Goddard -- to write for the project.

Mike (***ON A PALE HORSE***) Okamoto provides the premiere cover painting; Matt (***LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS***) Thompson and Eddy (***NECROMANCER***) Newell will fully paint several of the issues, though additional art assignments have yet to be made. George Perez has offered to provide covers for some of Bill Mumy's stories.

Some issues of the book will be line art with airbrush grayline color, although some issues will be fully painted, along the lines of ***THE VAMPIRE LESTAT***.

In full color in a high-quality cardstock cover format similar to ***THE VAMPIRE LESTAT*** series, ***LOST IN SPACE #1*** will premiere in May with a cover price of $2.50.

Bill Mumy says he hopes "very much to guide this project. After all, I was there."

-- Jim Elliott
February, 1991

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Valentine's Slay

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Embellisher

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DAVID CAMPITI
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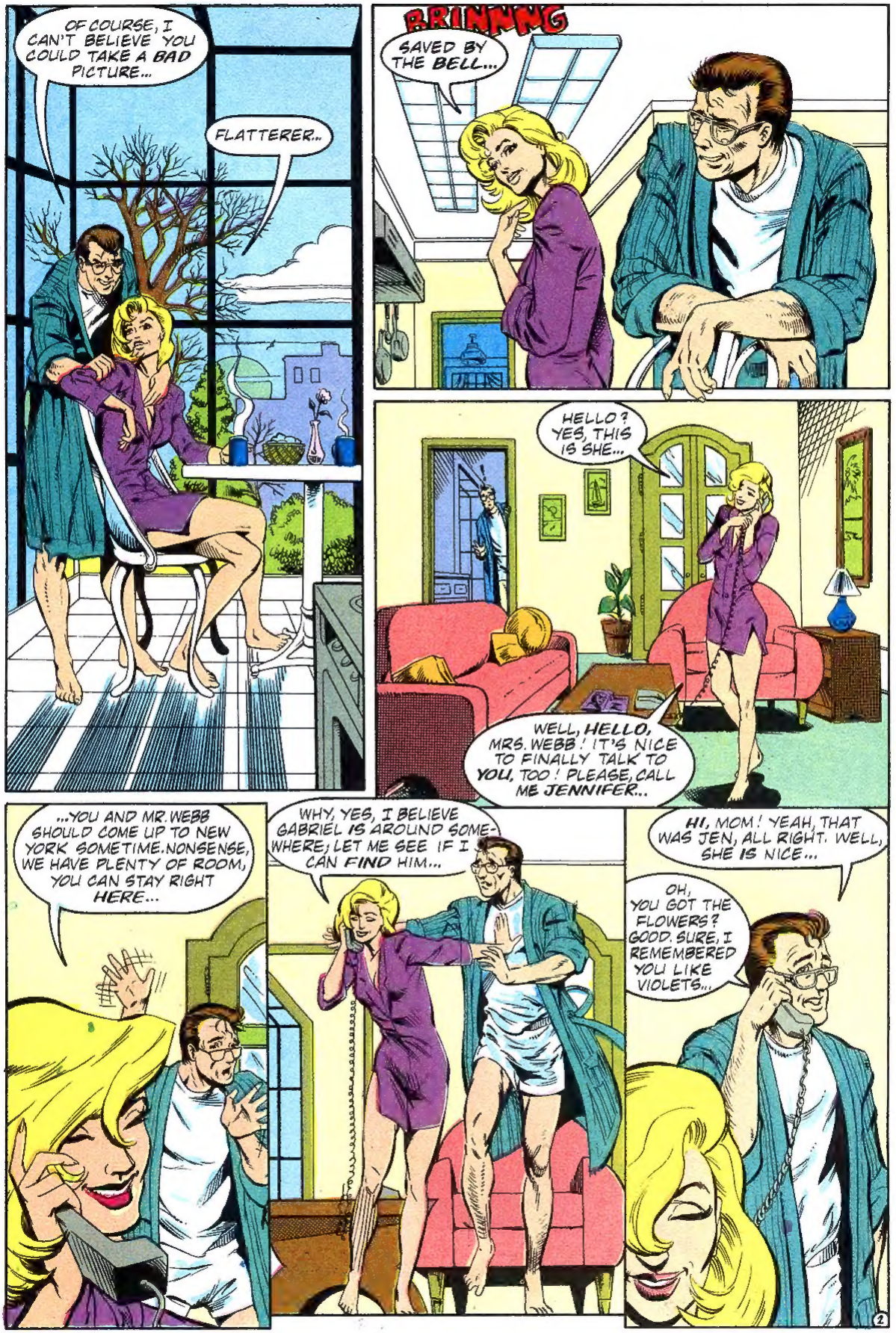
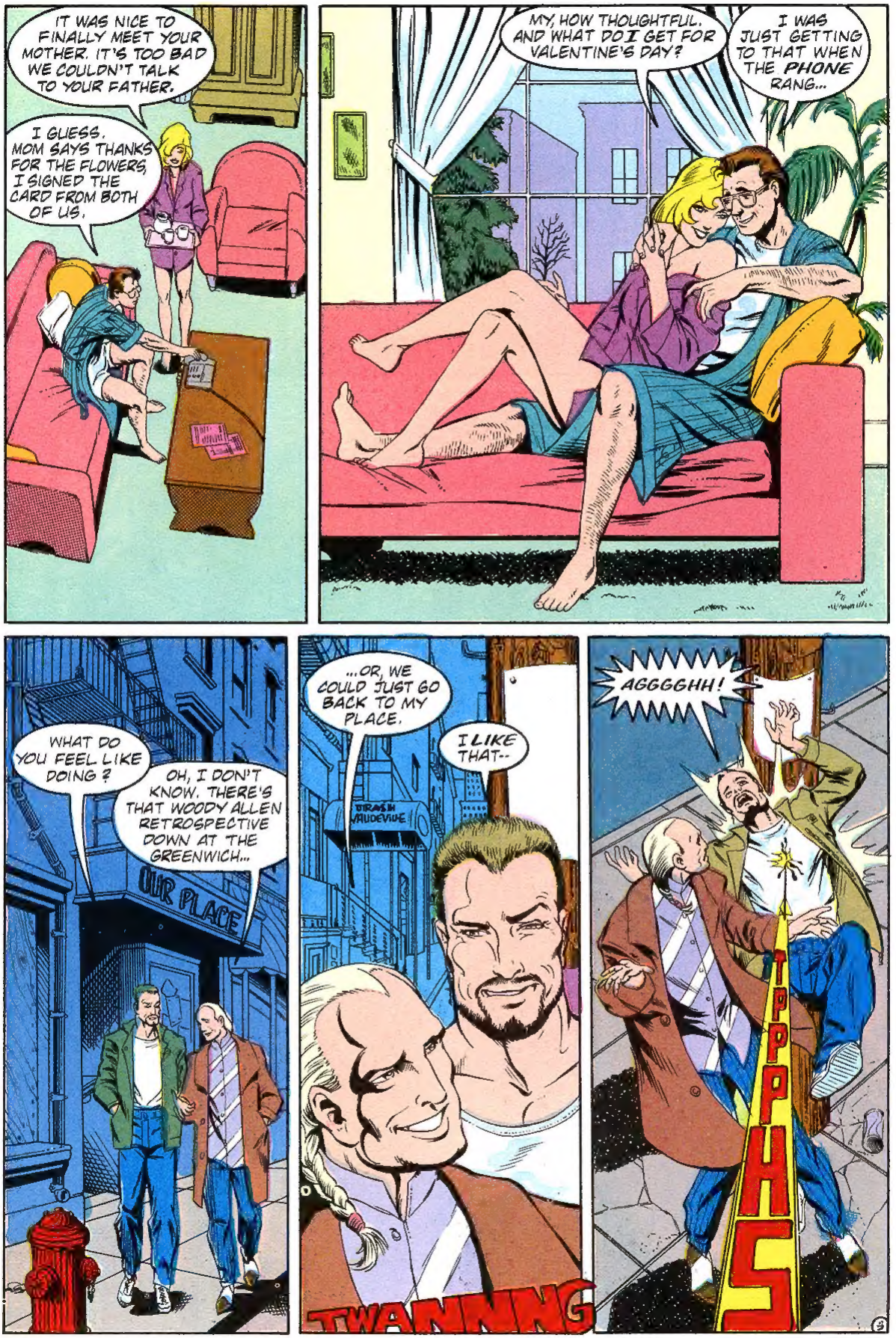
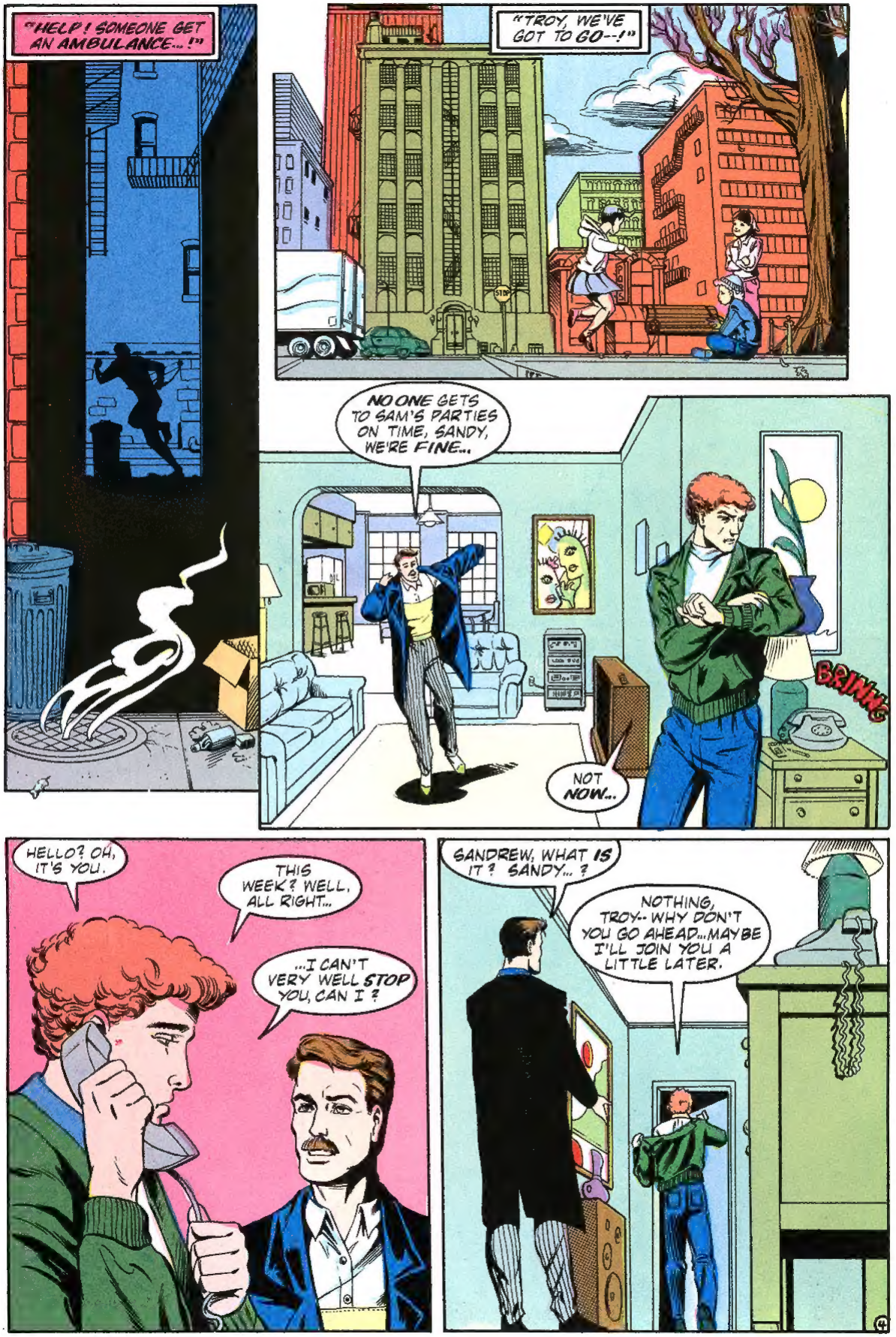
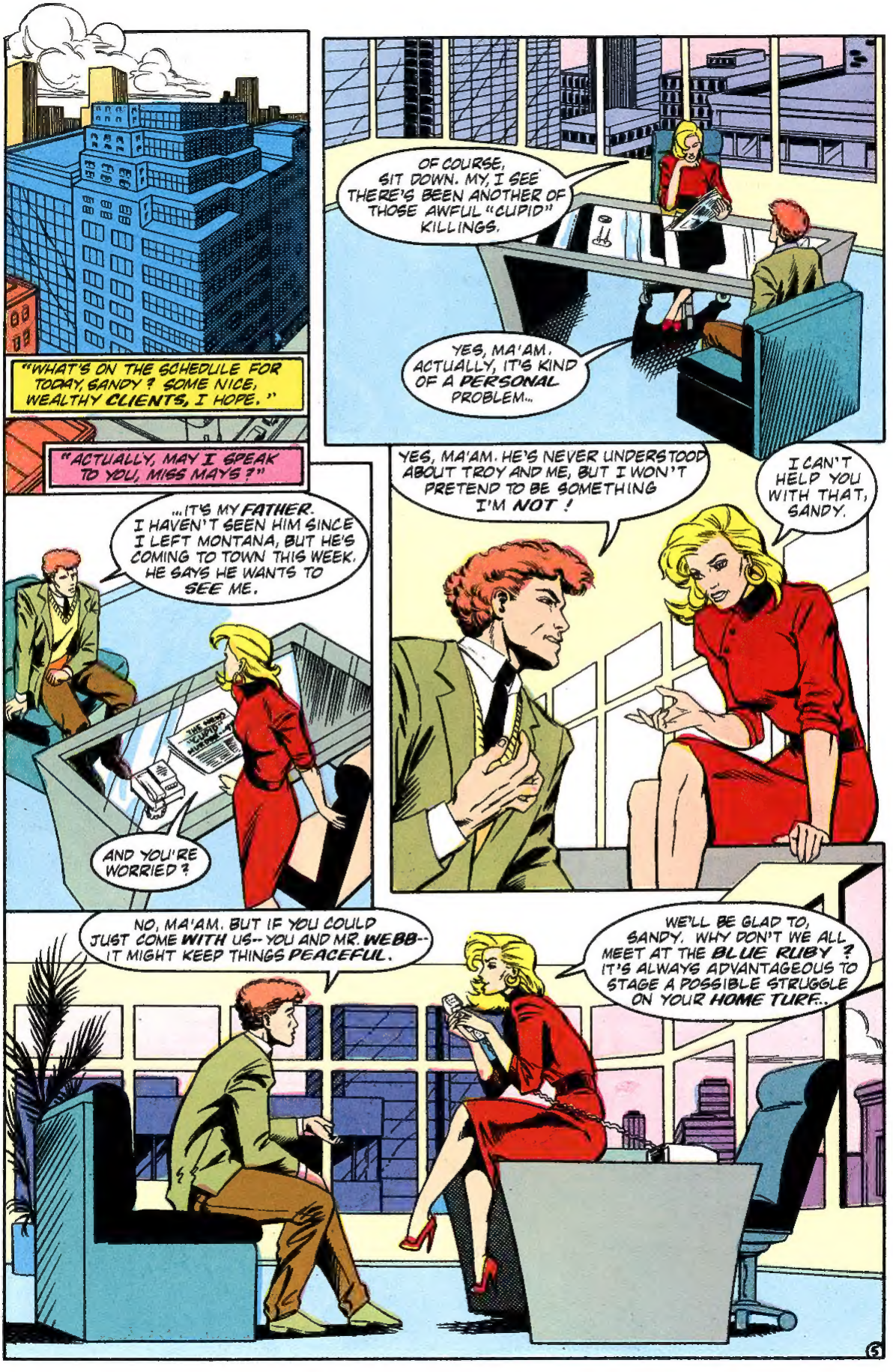
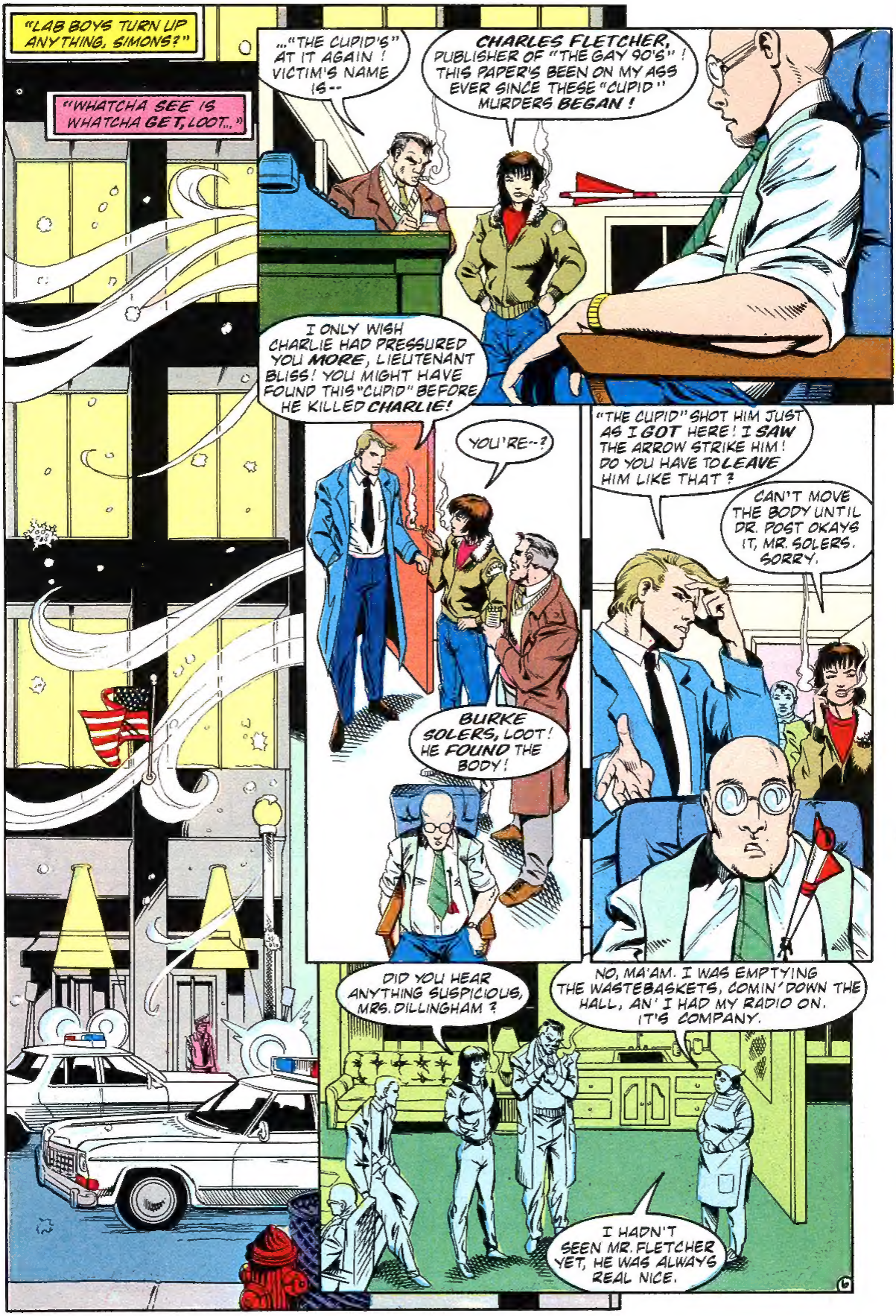
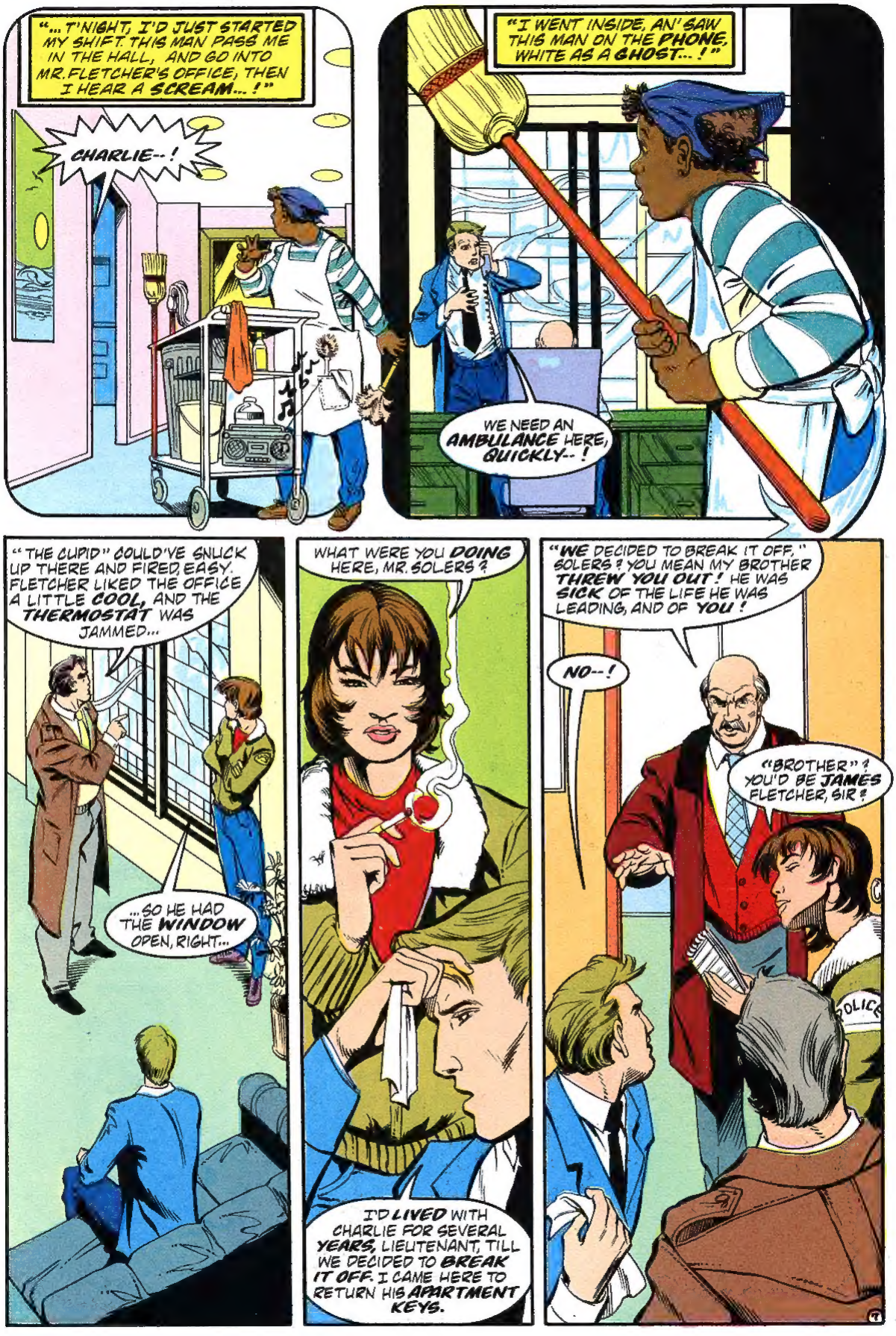

OF COURSE, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU COULD TAKE A BAD PICTURE...
FLATTERER...
BRINNNG
SAVED BY THE BELL...
HELLO? YES, THIS IS SHE...
WELL, HELLO, MRS. WEBB! IT'S NICE TO FINALLY TALK TO YOU, TOO! PLEASE, CALL ME JENNIFER...
...YOU AND MR. WEBB SHOULD COME UP TO NEW YORK SOMETIME. NONSENSE, WE HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM, YOU CAN STAY RIGHT HERE...
WHY, YES, I BELIEVE GABRIEL IS AROUND SOMEWHERE; LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND HIM...
HI, MOM! YEAH, THAT WAS JEN, ALL RIGHT. WELL, SHE IS NICE...
OH, YOU GOT THE FLOWERS? GOOD. SURE, I REMEMBERED YOU LIKE VIOLETS...
2

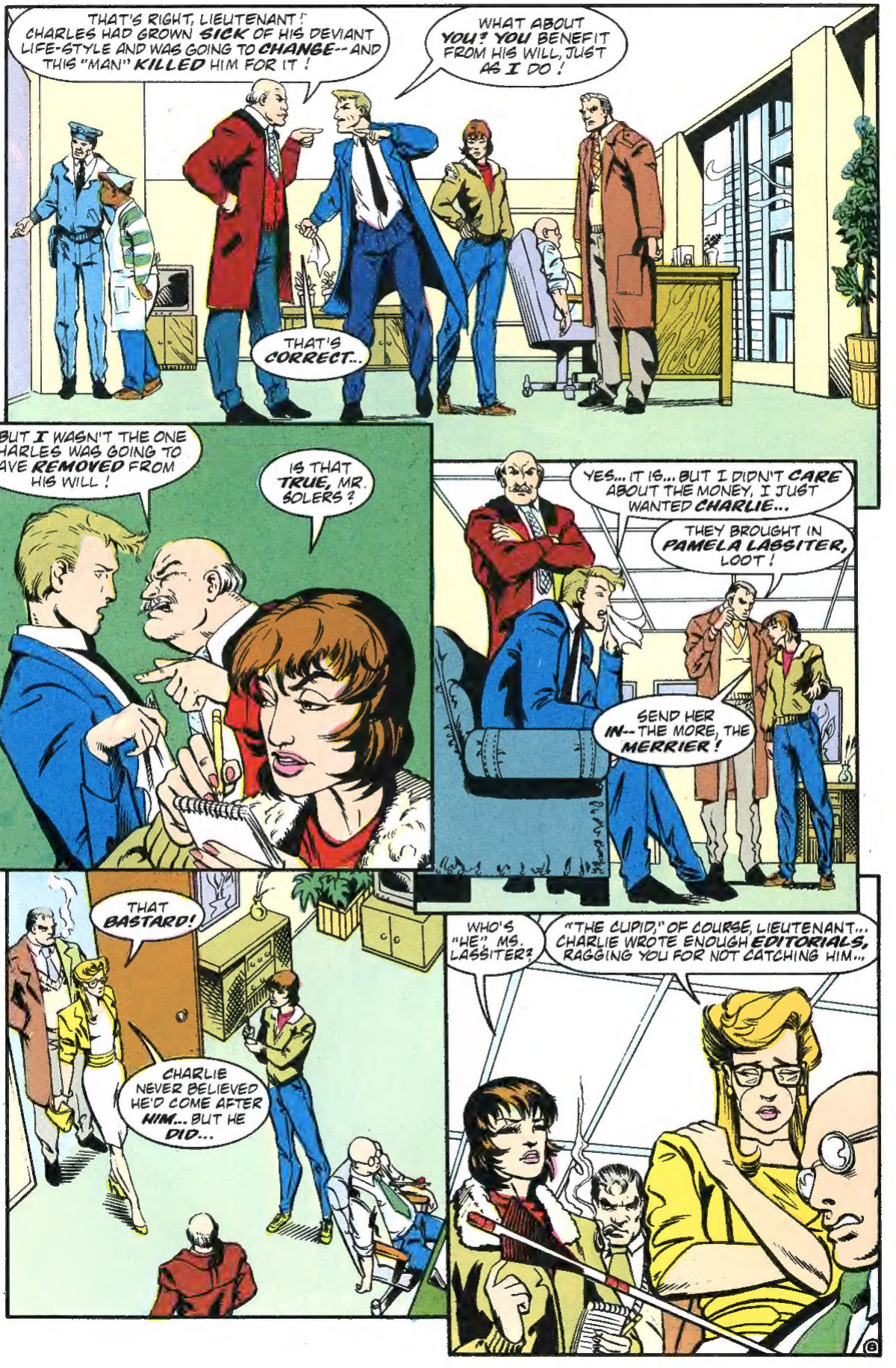

IT WAS NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOUR MOTHER. IT'S TOO BAD WE COULDN'T TALK TO YOUR FATHER.
I GUESS. MOM SAYS THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS, I SIGNED THE CARD FROM BOTH OF US.
MY, HOW THOUGHTFUL. AND WHAT DO I GET FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?
I WAS JUST GETTING TO THAT WHEN THE PHONE RANG...
WHAT DO YOU FEEL LIKE DOING?
OH, I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S THAT WOODY ALLEN RETROSPECTIVE DOWN AT THE GREENWICH...
OUR PLACE
...OR, WE COULD JUST GO BACK TO MY PLACE.
I LIKE THAT--
TRASH MUDEVINE
TWANNNG
AGGGGHH!
TPPPHS


"HELP! SOMEONE GET AN AMBULANCE...!"
"TROY, WE'VE GOT TO GO--!"
NO ONE GETS TO SAM'S PARTIES ON TIME, SANDY, WE'RE FINE...
NOT NOW..
BRING
HELLO? OH, IT'S YOU.
THIS WEEK? WELL, ALL RIGHT...
...I CAN'T VERY WELL STOP YOU, CAN I?
SANDREW, WHAT IS IT? SANDY...?
NOTHING, TROY-- WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD...MAYBE I'LL JOIN YOU A LITTLE LATER.


"WHAT'S ON THE SCHEDULE FOR TODAY, SANDY? SOME NICE, WEALTHY CLIENTS, I HOPE."
OF COURSE, SIT DOWN. MY, I SEE THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER OF THOSE AWFUL "CUPID" KILLINGS.
YES, MA'AM. ACTUALLY, IT'S KIND OF A PERSONAL PROBLEM...
"ACTUALLY, MAY I SPEAK TO YOU, MISS MAYS?"
...IT'S MY FATHER. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I LEFT MONTANA, BUT HE'S COMING TO TOWN THIS WEEK. HE SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE ME.
AND YOU'RE WORRIED?
YES, MA'AM. HE'S NEVER UNDERSTOOD ABOUT TROY AND ME, BUT I WON'T PRETEND TO BE SOMETHING I'M NOT!
I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH THAT, SANDY.
NO, MA'AM. BUT IF YOU COULD JUST COME WITH US-- YOU AND MR. WEBB-- IT MIGHT KEEP THINGS PEACEFUL.
WE'LL BE GLAD TO, SANDY. WHY DON'T WE ALL MEET AT THE BLUE RUBY? IT'S ALWAYS ADVANTAGEOUS TO STAGE A POSSIBLE STRUGGLE ON YOUR HOME TURF..
5


"LAB BOYS TURN UP ANYTHING, SIMONS?"
"WHATCHA SEE IS WHATCHA GET, LOOT..."
..."THE CUPID'S" AT IT AGAIN! VICTIM'S NAME IS--
CHARLES FLETCHER, PUBLISHER OF "THE GAY 90'S"! THIS PAPER'S BEEN ON MY ASS EVER SINCE THESE "CUPID" MURDERS BEGAN!
I ONLY WISH CHARLIE HAD PRESSURED YOU MORE, LIEUTENANT BLISS! YOU MIGHT HAVE FOUND THIS "CUPID" BEFORE HE KILLED CHARLIE!
YOU'RE--?
BURKE SOLERS, LOOT! HE FOUND THE BODY!
"THE CUPID" SHOT HIM JUST AS I GOT HERE! I SAW THE ARROW STRIKE HIM! DO YOU HAVE TO LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT?
CAN'T MOVE THE BODY UNTIL DR. POST OKAYS IT, MR. SOLERS. SORRY.
DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, MRS. DILLINGHAM?
NO, MA'AM. I WAS EMPTYING THE WASTEBASKETS, COMIN' DOWN THE HALL, AN' I HAD MY RADIO ON. IT'S COMPANY.
I HADN'T SEEN MR. FLETCHER YET, HE WAS ALWAYS REAL NICE.
6


"... T'NIGHT, I'D JUST STARTED MY SHIFT. THIS MAN PASS ME IN THE HALL, AND GO INTO MR. FLETCHER'S OFFICE, THEN I HEAR A SCREAM... !"
CHARLIE--!
"I WENT INSIDE, AN' SAW THIS MAN ON THE PHONE, WHITE AS A GHOST... !"
WE NEED AN AMBULANCE HERE, QUICKLY--!
"THE CUPID" COULD'VE SNUCK UP THERE AND FIRED, EASY. FLETCHER LIKED THE OFFICE A LITTLE COOL, AND THE THERMOSTAT WAS JAMMED...
...SO HE HAD THE WINDOW OPEN, RIGHT...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE, MR. SOLERS?
I'D LIVED WITH CHARLIE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, LIEUTENANT, TILL WE DECIDED TO BREAK IT OFF. I CAME HERE TO RETURN HIS APARTMENT KEYS.
"WE DECIDED TO BREAK IT OFF," SOLERS? YOU MEAN MY BROTHER THREW YOU OUT! HE WAS SICK OF THE LIFE HE WAS LEADING, AND OF YOU!
NO--!
"BROTHER"? YOU'D BE JAMES FLETCHER, SIR?


THAT'S RIGHT, LIEUTENANT! CHARLES HAD GROWN SICK OF HIS DEVIANT LIFE-STYLE AND WAS GOING TO CHANGE-- AND THIS "MAN" KILLED HIM FOR IT!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU BENEFIT FROM HIS WILL, JUST AS I DO!
THAT'S CORRECT...
...BUT I WASN'T THE ONE CHARLES WAS GOING TO HAVE REMOVED FROM HIS WILL!
IS THAT TRUE, MR. SOLERS?
YES... IT IS... BUT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY, I JUST WANTED CHARLIE...
THEY BROUGHT IN PAMELA LASSITER, LOOT!
SEND HER IN-- THE MORE, THE MERRIER!
THAT BASTARD!
CHARLIE NEVER BELIEVED HE'D COME AFTER HIM... BUT HE DID...
WHO'S "HE" MS. LASSITER?
"THE CUPID," OF COURSE, LIEUTENANT... CHARLIE WROTE ENOUGH EDITORIALS, RAGGING YOU FOR NOT CATCHING HIM...

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#1 -- 52 pp! High school girls as vampires! Jackson Guice cover! ($3.00)

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#1 -- In the *Elfquest* tradition! ($3.95)

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#1 -- Sophisticated suspense from the creators of *Scimidar*! ($3.50)
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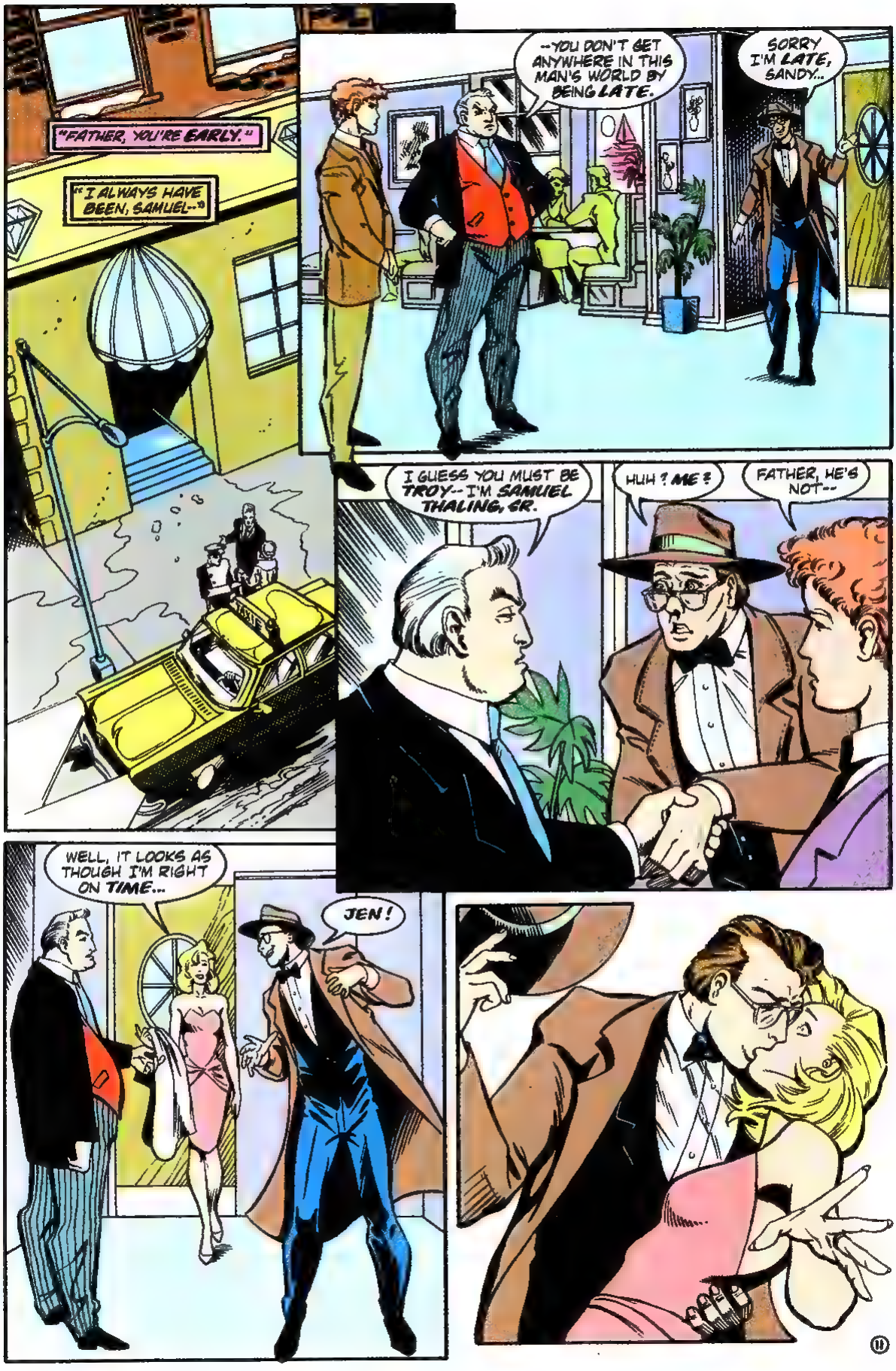
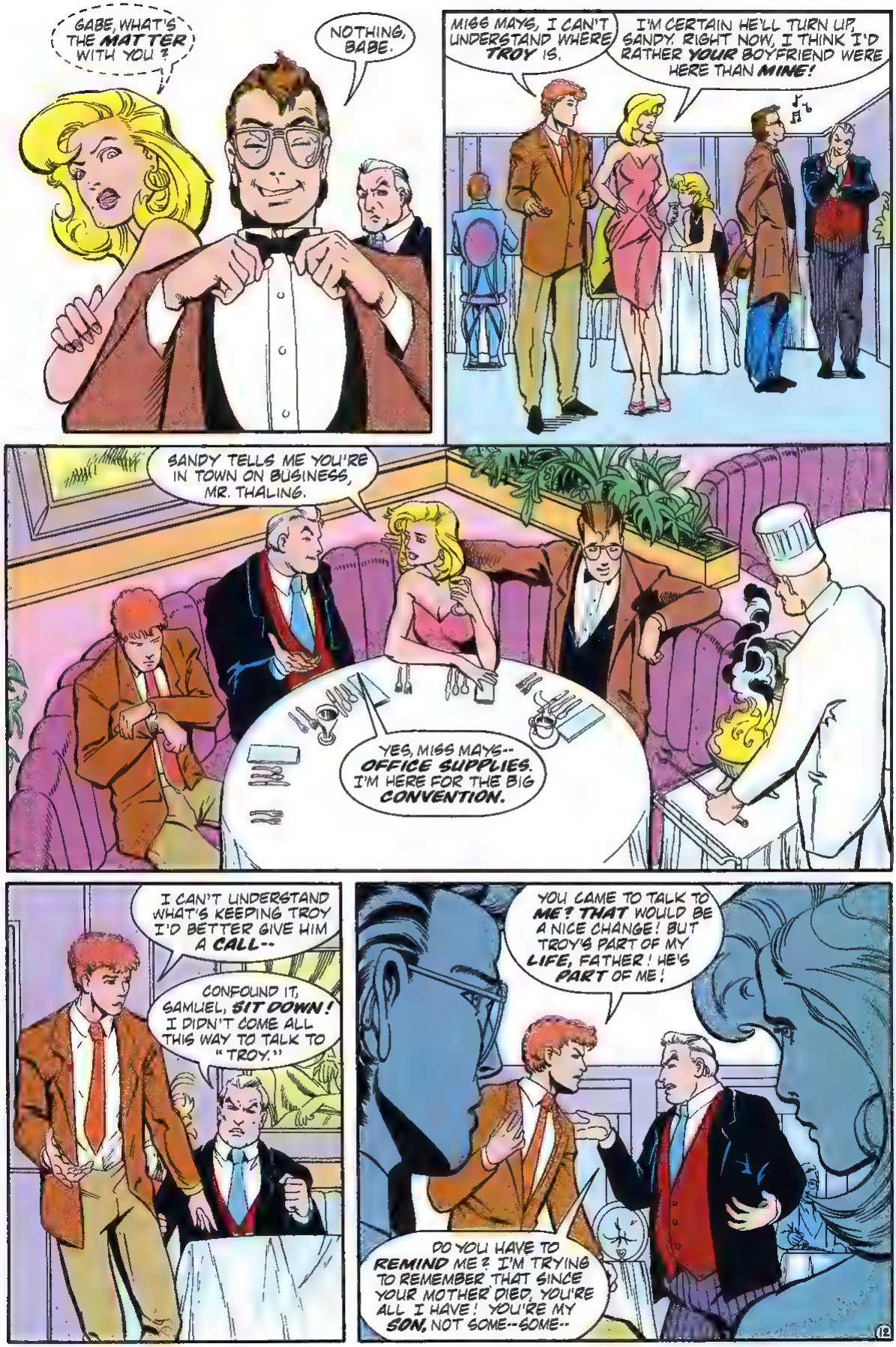
WALT KELLY'S SANTA CLAUS ADVENTURES **(Full Color) Trade Pbk.**
#1 -- All ages, by the creator of *Pogo*! ($6.95)

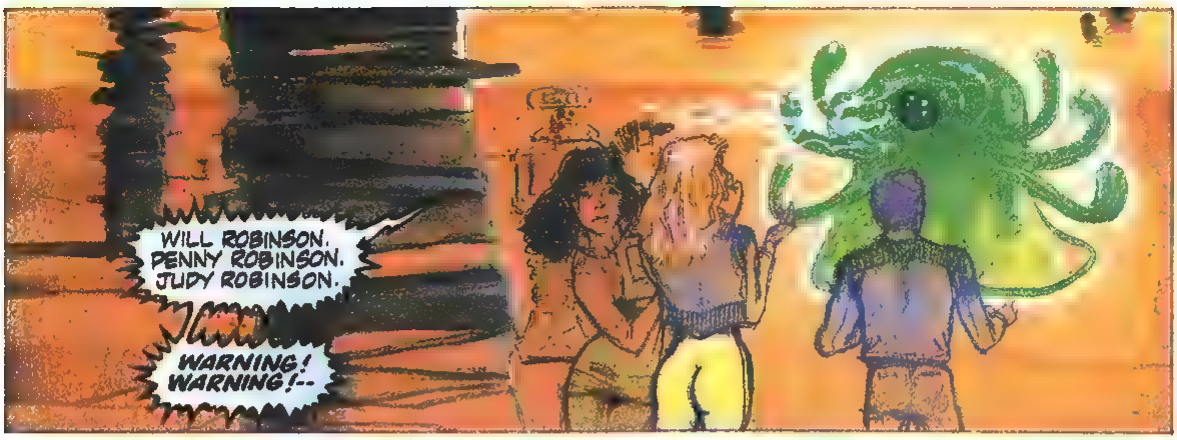
AND YOU CAN KEEP IT UP, EH, MS. LASSITER? I UNDERSTAND YOU INHERIT CHARLES FLETCHER'S CONTROLLING STOCK IN "THE GAY 90'S."
THAT'S RIGHT--AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GAY ISSUES...
...BUT I'M GOING TO TURN THIS PAPER INTO ONE DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH LESBIAN INTERESTS!
AND I GUESS THERE'S NO SENSE WAITING UNTIL MR. FLETCHER'S BODY IS COLD.
LIEUTENANT, I'D THINK THAT YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOULD UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR A NEWSPAPER CATERING TO A--
ALL I CARE ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS FLETCHER'S MURDER, MS. LASSITER! SERGEANT SIMONS WILL TAKE THE REST OF YOUR STATEMENT!
WE'RE NOT GONNA FIND MUCH HERE, LOOT-- THE NIGHT WATCHMAN'S AN OLD DRUNK, AND "THE CUPID'S" TOO CRAFTY T'LEAVE HIS ADDRESS!
IT NEVER HURTS TO CHECK, SIMONS...
...BESIDES, I'M WORKING ON A NEW ANGLE. REMEMBER THAT RIPPER CASE? A LOT OF MURDERS TO CONCEAL ONE MOTIVE FOR ONE MURDER?
YEAH! YOU THINK THIS "CUPID'S" BEEN OFFIN' GAYS AS A SMOKE-SCREEN 'CAUSE HE STANDS T'PROFIT FROM FLETCHER'S DEATH?

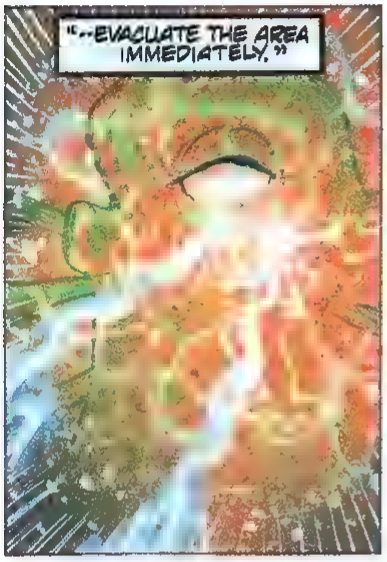
"IT'S A THOUGHT."
SANDY, I'M JUST LEAVING NOW! DON'T WORRY, WE'LL OUTNUMBER YOUR FATHER! SEE YOU AT THE RESTAURANT, 'BYE!
I'VE CALLED A CAB FOR US, MISS MAYS.
YOU GO AHEAD, SANDY; I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH THIS. MR. WEBB WILL PROBABLY ALREADY BE THERE--I HOPE.
DUOS
"THE GAY 90'S," PLEASE.
PAPERS
YOU GOT IT, MAC.
10

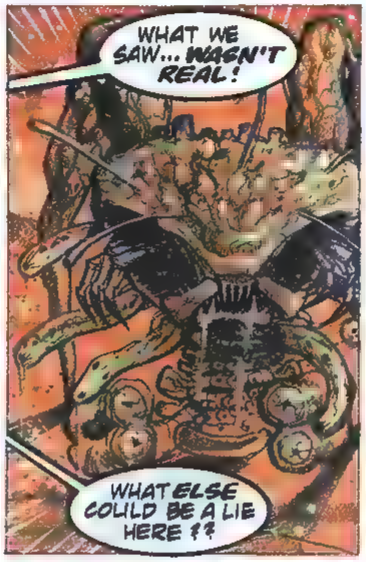

"FATHER, YOU'RE EARLY."
"I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, SAMUEL--"
--YOU DON'T GET ANYWHERE IN THIS MAN'S WORLD BY BEING LATE.
SORRY I'M LATE, SANDY..
I GUESS YOU MUST BE TROY-- I'M SAMUEL THALING, SR.
HUH? ME?
FATHER, HE'S NOT--
WELL, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I'M RIGHT ON TIME...
JEN!


GABE, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
NOTHING, BABE.
MISS MAYS, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE TROY IS.
I'M CERTAIN HE'LL TURN UP, SANDY. RIGHT NOW, I THINK I'D RATHER YOUR BOYFRIEND WERE HERE THAN MINE!
SANDY TELLS ME YOU'RE IN TOWN ON BUSINESS, MR. THALING.
YES, MISS MAYS-- OFFICE SUPPLIES. I'M HERE FOR THE BIG CONVENTION.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S KEEPING TROY I'D BETTER GIVE HIM A CALL--
CONFOUND IT, SAMUEL, SIT DOWN! I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO TALK TO "TROY."
YOU CAME TO TALK TO ME? THAT WOULD BE A NICE CHANGE! BUT TROY'S PART OF MY LIFE, FATHER! HE'S PART OF ME!
DO YOU HAVE TO REMIND ME? I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER THAT SINCE YOUR MOTHER DIED, YOU'RE ALL I HAVE! YOU'RE MY SON, NOT SOME--SOME--
12

SPECIAL BONUS PREVIEW!

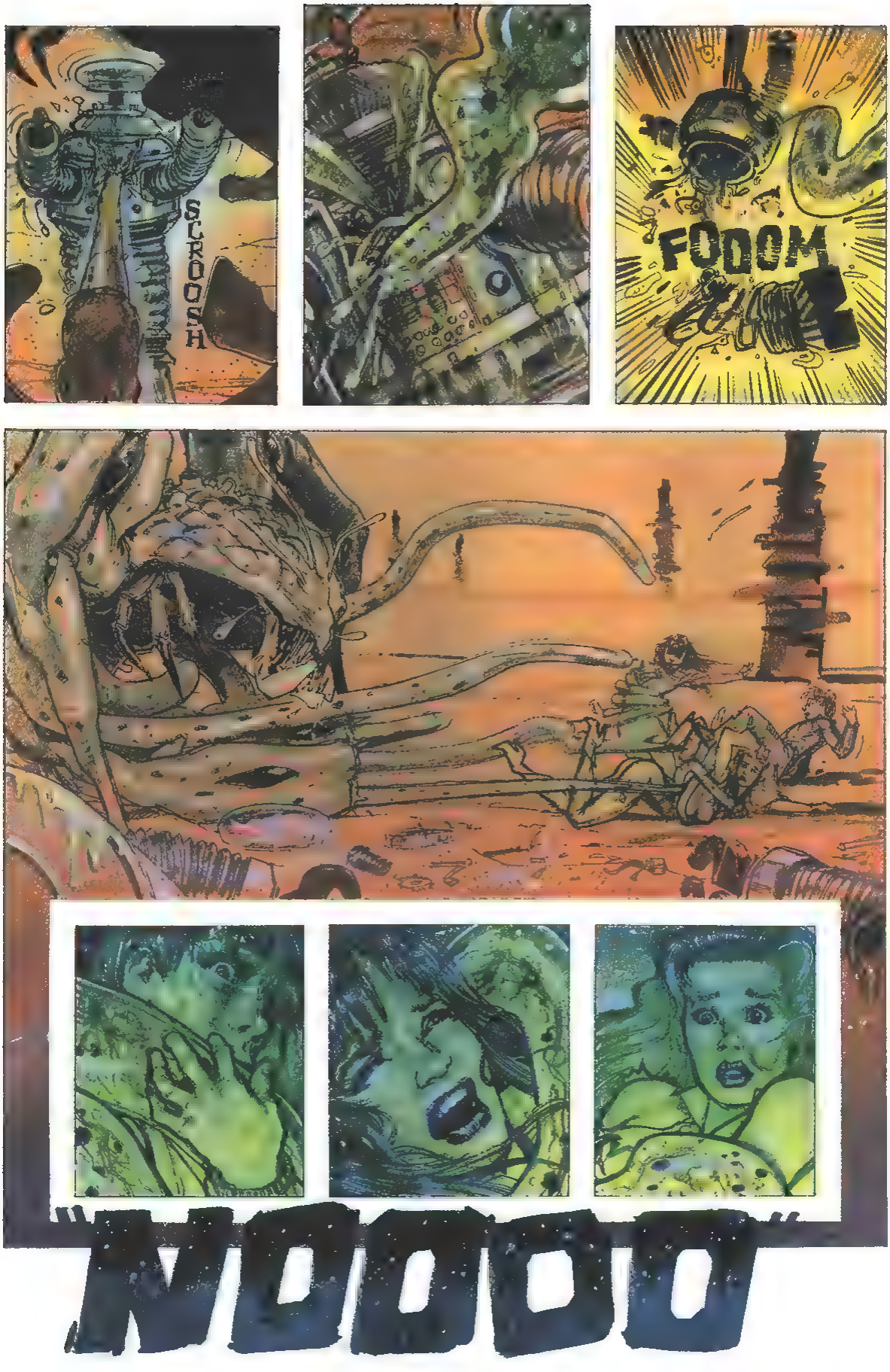

WILL ROBINSON. PENNY ROBINSON. JUDY ROBINSON.
WARNING! WARNING!--


"--EVACUATE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY."

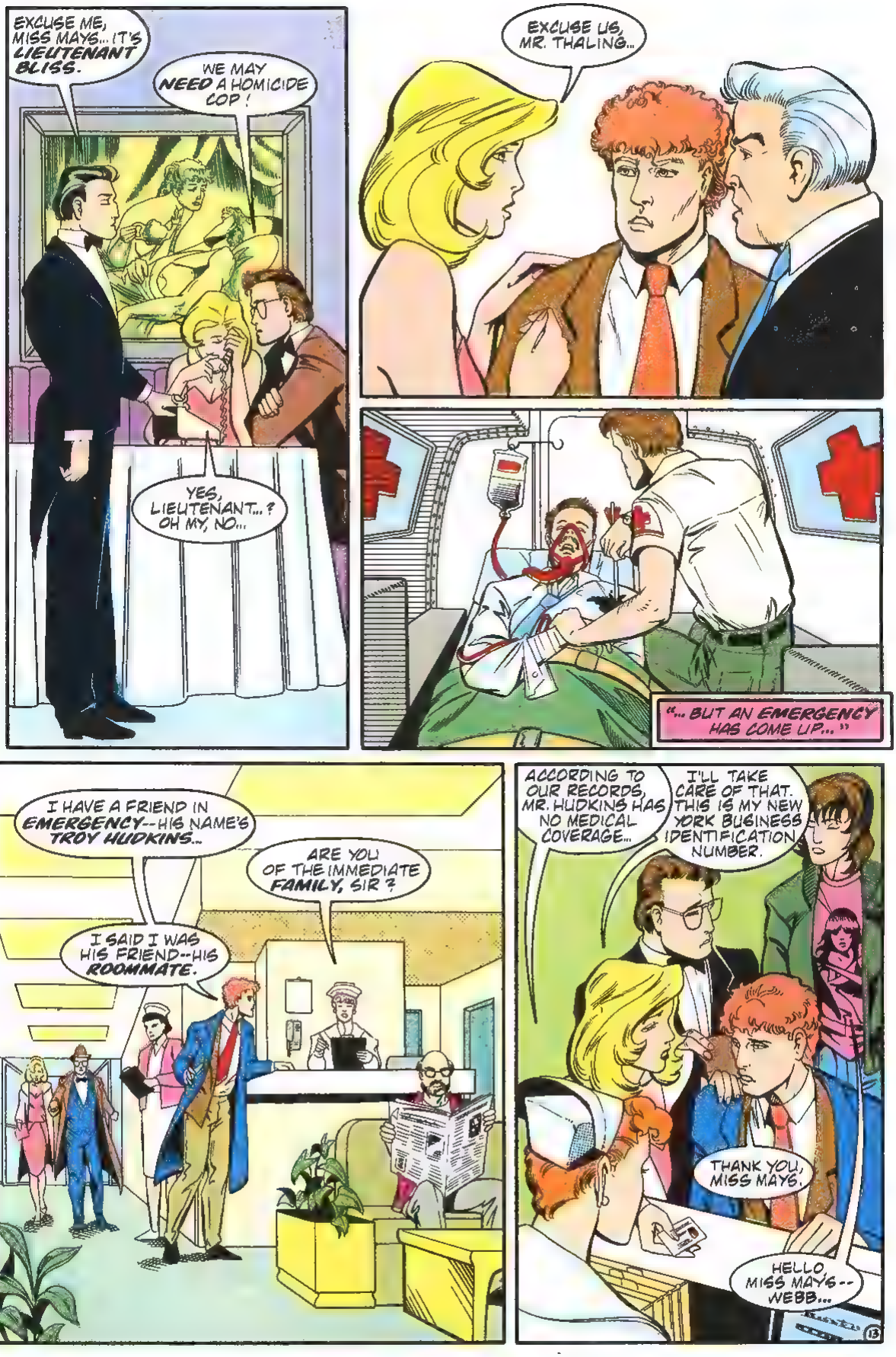

WHAT WE SAW... WASN'T REAL!
WHAT ELSE COULD BE A LIE HERE!?

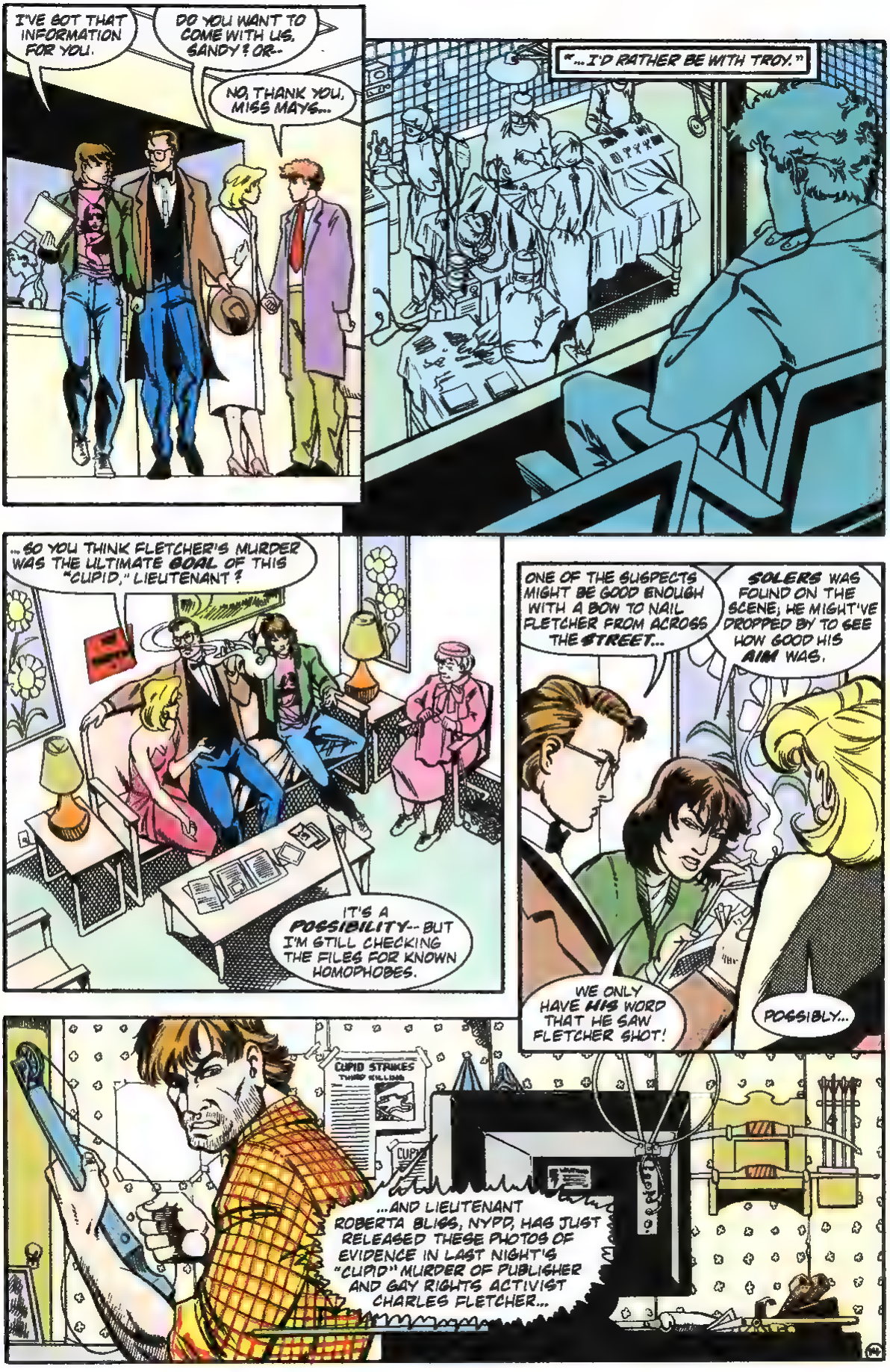
JUDY-- PENNY-- ROBOT--
HURRY!

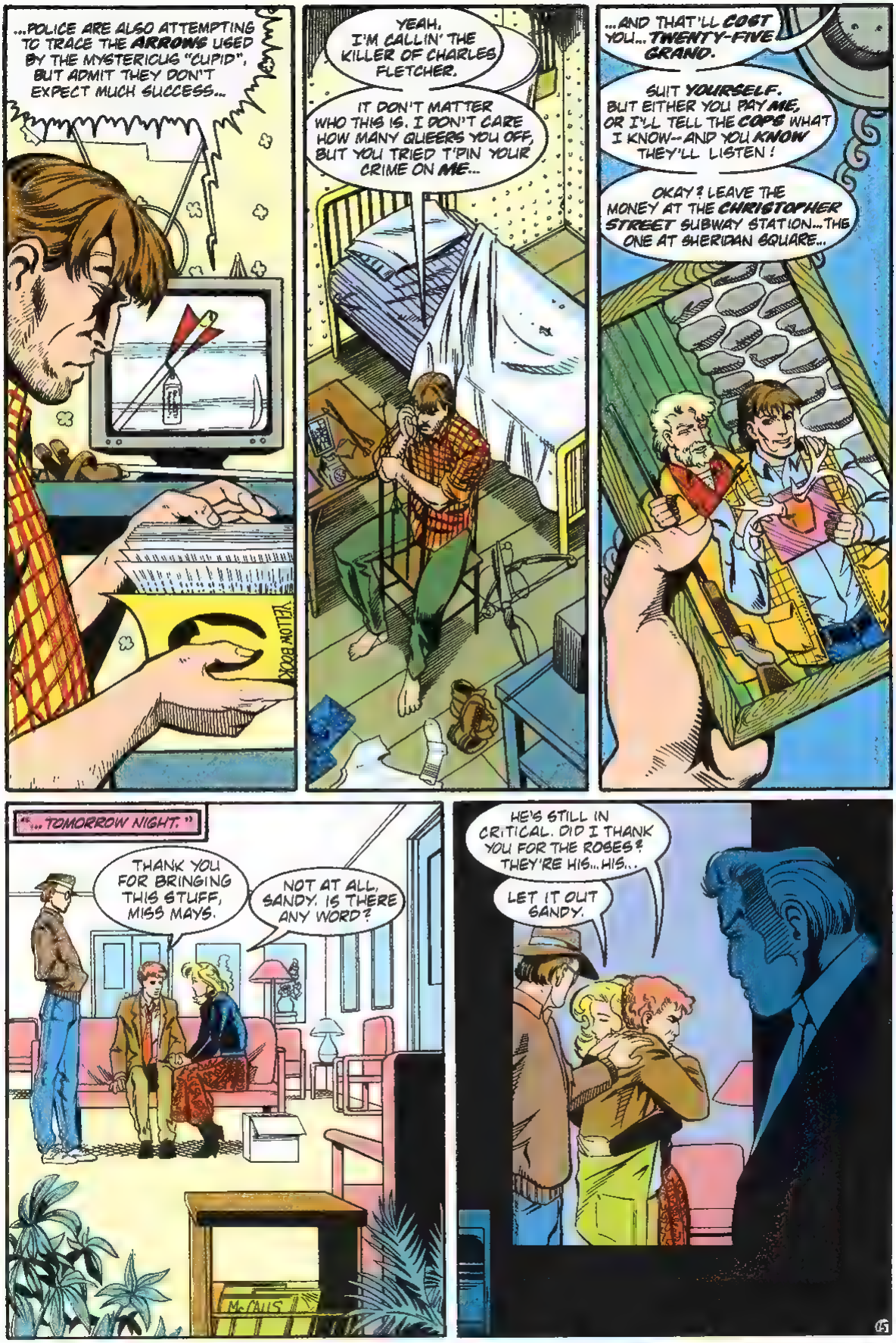
"WE'VE GOT TO WARN DAD!"


SCROOSH
FOOOM
NOOOO

LOST IN SPACE™
IT'S BACK.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.
COMING IN MAY
INNOVATION


EXCUSE ME, MISS MAYS... IT'S LIEUTENANT BLISS.
WE MAY NEED A HOMICIDE COP!
YES, LIEUTENANT...? OH MY, NO...
EXCUSE US, MR. THALING...
"... BUT AN EMERGENCY HAS COME UP..."
I HAVE A FRIEND IN EMERGENCY--HIS NAME'S TROY HUDKINS...
I SAID I WAS HIS FRIEND--HIS ROOMMATE.
ARE YOU OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY, SIR?
ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, MR. HUDKINS HAS NO MEDICAL COVERAGE...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT. THIS IS MY NEW YORK BUSINESS IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
THANK YOU, MISS MAYS.
HELLO, MISS MAYS--WEBB...
13


I'VE GOT THAT INFORMATION FOR YOU.
DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH US, SANDY? OR--
NO, THANK YOU, MISS MAYS...
"...I'D RATHER BE WITH TROY."
...SO YOU THINK FLETCHER'S MURDER WAS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THIS "CUPID," LIEUTENANT?
IT'S A POSSIBILITY-- BUT I'M STILL CHECKING THE FILES FOR KNOWN HOMOPHOBES.
ONE OF THE SUSPECTS MIGHT BE GOOD ENOUGH WITH A BOW TO NAIL FLETCHER FROM ACROSS THE STREET...
SOLERS WAS FOUND ON THE SCENE; HE MIGHT'VE DROPPED BY TO SEE HOW GOOD HIS AIM WAS.
WE ONLY HAVE HIS WORD THAT HE SAW FLETCHER SHOT!
POSSIBLY...
CUPID STRIKES
...AND LIEUTENANT ROBERTA BLISS, NYPD, HAS JUST RELEASED THESE PHOTOS OF EVIDENCE IN LAST NIGHT'S "CUPID" MURDER OF PUBLISHER AND GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST CHARLES FLETCHER...


...POLICE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO TRACE THE ARROWS USED BY THE MYSTERICUS "CUPID", BUT ADMIT THEY DON'T EXPECT MUCH SUCCESS...
YELLOW BOOK
YEAH, I'M CALLIN' THE KILLER OF CHARLES FLETCHER.
IT DON'T MATTER WHO THIS IS. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY QUEERS YOU OFF, BUT YOU TRIED T'PIN YOUR CRIME ON ME...
...AND THAT'LL COST YOU... TWENTY-FIVE GRAND.
SUIT YOURSELF. BUT EITHER YOU PAY ME, OR I'LL TELL THE COPS WHAT I KNOW-- AND YOU KNOW THEY'LL LISTEN!
OKAY? LEAVE THE MONEY AT THE CHRISTOPHER STREET SUBWAY STATION... THE ONE AT SHERIDAN SQUARE...
"...TOMORROW NIGHT."
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THIS STUFF, MISS MAYS.
NOT AT ALL, SANDY. IS THERE ANY WORD?
McCALLS
HE'S STILL IN CRITICAL. DID I THANK YOU FOR THE ROSES? THEY'RE HIS... HIS...
LET IT OUT SANDY.
15

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, PROFESSOR?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE MISSED... SOMETHING...
LT. R. BLISS
LOOT, LARABEE'S GOT HIM!
I DON'T KNOW! I >PUFF< CROSS-REFERENCED ALL WE KNEW ABOUT "THE CUPID" INTO THE COMPUTER, LIEUTENANT--
POP!
--INCLUDING HIS ARCHERY SKILLS AND HIS HATRED OF GAYS. IT TOOK A WHILE...
...BUT THIS GUY FITS THE PROFILE. HE WORKS IN A SPORTING GOODS STORE, AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WAS MURDERED BY A GAY LEATHER GANG LAST YEAR!
DO YOU MIND WEBB?

A Graphic Album of Unspeakable Horror

plus

Anne Rice's

and

THE VAMPIRE COMPANION

and THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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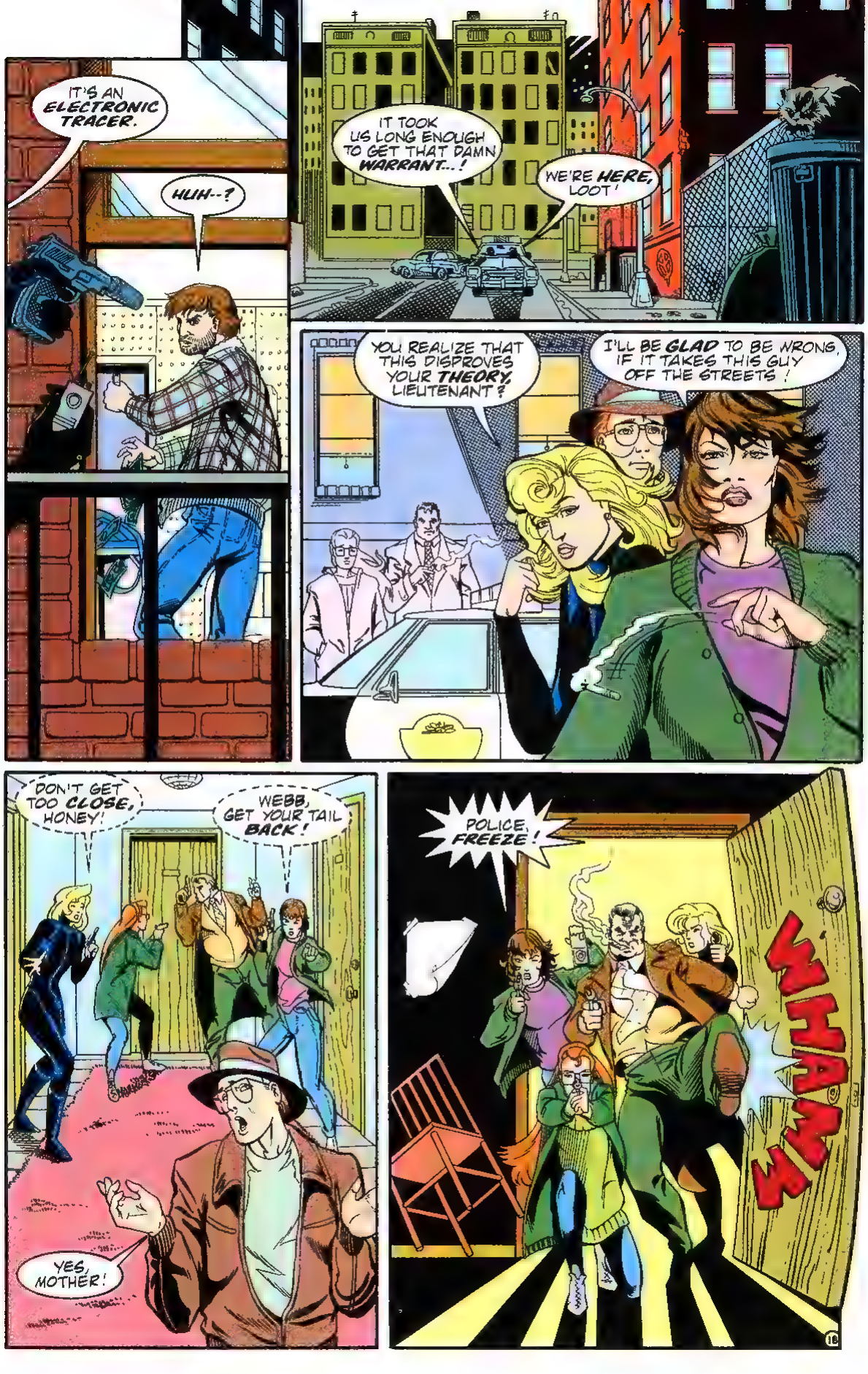
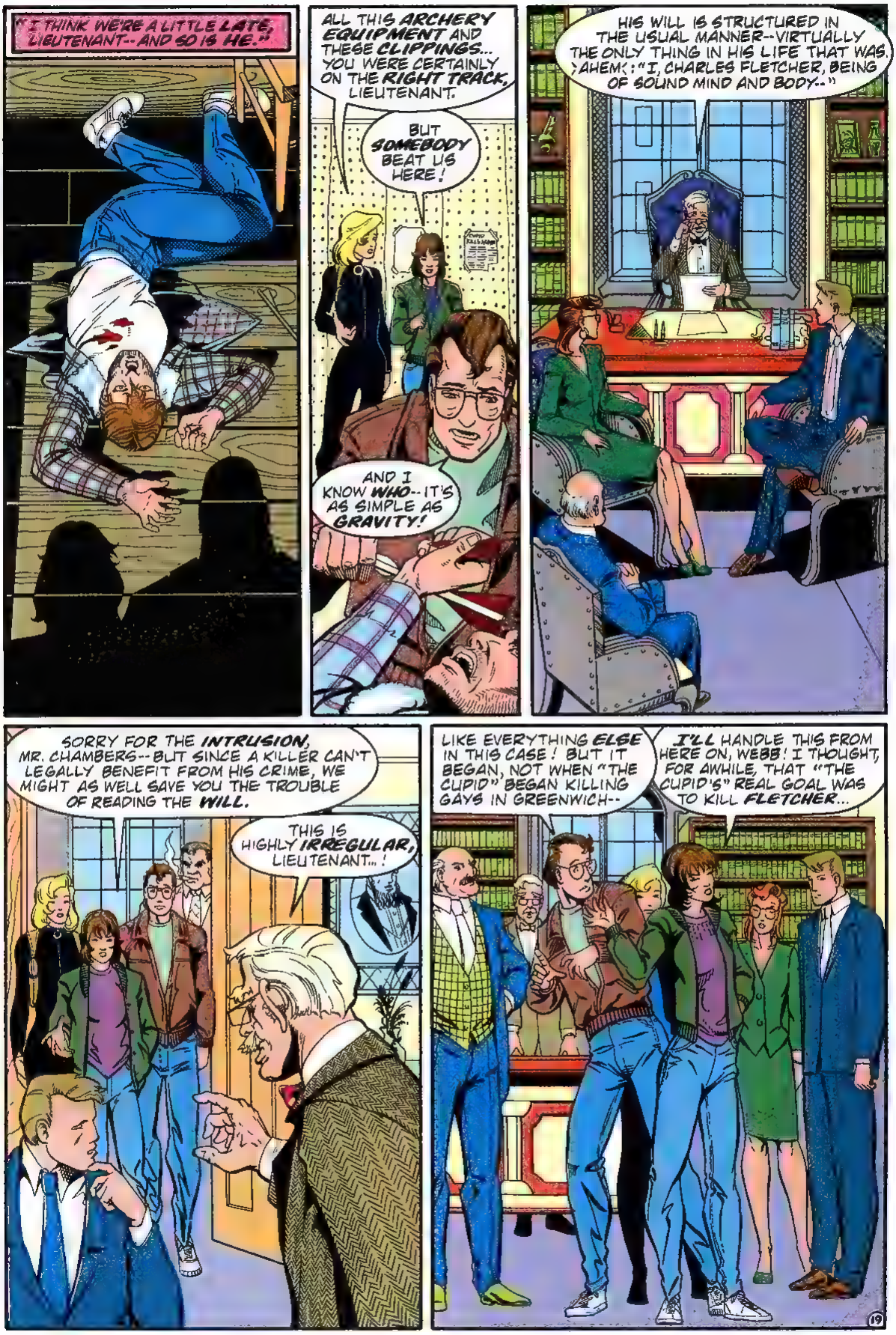
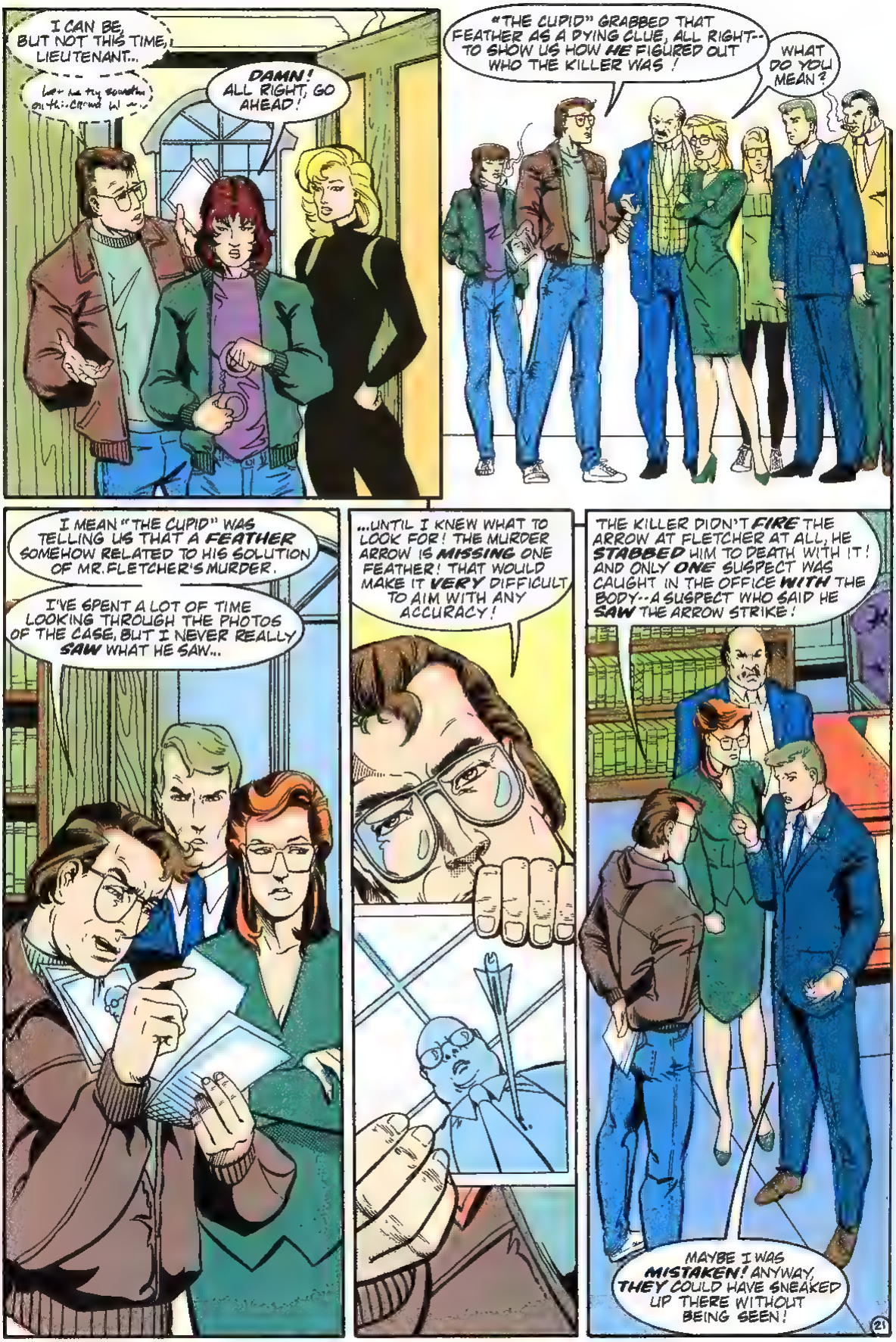
INCARNATIONS OF IMMORTALITY
INNOVATION
ON A PALE HORSE
INNOVATION
Terry Pratchett's
Magic
INNOVATION
Gene Wolfe's
THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER™
The Best-Selling Author's
INNOVATION™

LET'S GO. GOOD WORK, YOU TWO!
IT WAS ALL LARABEE, LOOT!
NICE JOB, FIONA!
THANKS, GABE!
LINE 6 ASTOR PLACE
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS?


IT'S AN ELECTRONIC TRACER.
HUH--?
IT TOOK US LONG ENOUGH TO GET THAT DAMN WARRANT..!
WE'RE HERE, LOOT!
YOU REALIZE THAT THIS DISPROVES YOUR THEORY, LIEUTENANT?
I'LL BE GLAD TO BE WRONG, IF IT TAKES THIS GUY OFF THE STREETS!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, HONEY!
WEBB, GET YOUR TAIL BACK!
YES, MOTHER!
POLICE, FREEZE!
WHAM!


"I THINK WE'RE A LITTLE LATE, LIEUTENANT--AND SO IS HE."
ALL THIS ARCHERY EQUIPMENT AND THESE CLIPPINGS... YOU WERE CERTAINLY ON THE RIGHT TRACK, LIEUTENANT.
BUT SOMEBODY BEAT US HERE!
AND I KNOW WHO--IT'S AS SIMPLE AS GRAVITY!
HIS WILL IS STRUCTURED IN THE USUAL MANNER--VIRTUALLY THE ONLY THING IN HIS LIFE THAT WAS. >AHEM<: "I, CHARLES FLETCHER, BEING OF SOUND MIND AND BODY--"
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION, MR. CHAMBERS--BUT SINCE A KILLER CAN'T LEGALLY BENEFIT FROM HIS CRIME, WE MIGHT AS WELL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF READING THE WILL.
THIS IS HIGHLY IRREGULAR, LIEUTENANT...!
LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS CASE! BUT IT BEGAN, NOT WHEN "THE CUPID" BEGAN KILLING GAYS IN GREENWICH--
I'LL HANDLE THIS FROM HERE ON, WEBB! I THOUGHT, FOR AWHILE, THAT "THE CUPID'S" REAL GOAL WAS TO KILL FLETCHER...
19

... BUT TONIGHT I REALIZED FLETCHER'S MURDER WAS A COPYCAT KILLING, INTENDED TO BE BLAMED ON "THE CUPID."
SHE MAY HAVE THIS DOPED OUT!
AND YOU CAN'T STAND IT, CAN YOU?
BUT "THE CUPID" CAUGHT WISE TO THIS AND PROBABLY TRIED TO BLACKMAIL THE KILLER--
--WHO KILLED "THE CUPID," INSTEAD, AS WELL AS TAKING ANY EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM HE MIGHT HAVE HAD...
... BUT "THE CUPID" MANAGED TO LEAVE A CLUE AS HE WAS DYING-- HE GRABBED A FEATHER FROM HIS ARCHERY EQUIPMENT! HOW DOES THAT TELL US WHO THE KILLER IS... ?
No. 146
STATE'S EVIDENCE
NEW YORK, NY
12TH PR.
HOMICIDE
... BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE NAME FLETCHER IS "A MAKER OF ARROWS."
YOU THINK I--?
I KNOW SO, FLETCHER-- AND SO WILL THE JURY!
LIEUTENANT.. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE SOLUTION MR. WEBB HAS IN MIND.
SO, CAN'T HE BE WRONG, FOR ONCE?


I CAN BE, BUT NOT THIS TIME, LIEUTENANT..
DAMN! ALL RIGHT, GO AHEAD!
"THE CUPID" GRABBED THAT FEATHER AS A DYING CLUE, ALL RIGHT-- TO SHOW US HOW HE FIGURED OUT WHO THE KILLER WAS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN "THE CUPID" WAS TELLING US THAT A FEATHER SOMEHOW RELATED TO HIS SOLUTION OF MR. FLETCHER'S MURDER.
I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME LOOKING THROUGH THE PHOTOS OF THE CASE, BUT I NEVER REALLY SAW WHAT HE SAW...
...UNTIL I KNEW WHAT TO LOOK FOR! THE MURDER ARROW IS MISSING ONE FEATHER! THAT WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO AIM WITH ANY ACCURACY!
THE KILLER DIDN'T FIRE THE ARROW AT FLETCHER AT ALL, HE STABBED HIM TO DEATH WITH IT! AND ONLY ONE SUSPECT WAS CAUGHT IN THE OFFICE WITH THE BODY--A SUSPECT WHO SAID HE SAW THE ARROW STRIKE!
MAYBE I WAS MISTAKEN! ANYWAY, THEY COULD HAVE SNEAKED UP THERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
21

THEN ONE OF THEM WILL HAVE THE THIRD FEATHER CAUGHT SOMEWHERE IN THEIR CLOTHES, MR. SOLERS--
-- BUT I'M BETTING WE'LL FIND IT IN THE LINING OF YOUR OVERCOAT!
OH, GOD...
THERE WAS NO WAY SOLERS COULD HAVE TALKED HIS WAY OUT OF HAVING THIS IN HIS APARTMENT--THE MONEY AND THE ENVELOPE BOTH HAVE "THE CUPID'S" PRINTS ON THEM!
CONGRATULATIONS, LIEUTENANT... MAY I USE YOUR PHONE?
SURE...HOW'S YOUR SECRETARY'S FRIEND?
WELL, HE'S OUT OF CRITICAL, AND I'M HOPING...
HELLO, SANDY?
HELLO, MISS MAYS. HE'S NOT READY FOR THE MARATHON, YET, BUT--
CAN I CALL YOU BACK, MISS MAYS?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE GONE BY NOW, FATHER.
I'VE BEEN OUT TO THE AIRPORT TWICE...
22

...AND I'VE BEEN IN THE LOBBY FOR THREE HOURS. SAMUEL, I'VE ALWAYS FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN FEEL LIKE YOU DO ABOUT ANOTHER MAN--
FATHER, THIS WON'T...
...UNTIL I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I'D FEEL IF IT WAS YOUR MOTHER LYING THERE.
TROY, I'M SAMUEL'S FATHER...
GREAT ROBE, JEN!
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY NEEDED ONE.
AND THIS IS FOR ME...?
MMM... SHAKESPEARE.
SOME OF THE BEST LOVED POETRY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
Sonnets of William Shakespeare
READ TO ME.
nnets of
William
kespea
23

Sonnet 29 by William Shakespeare
When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweep my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featur'd like him, like him with friends possess'd,
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee, - and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;
For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.
BOI
OPENED MINDS OPEN BOOKS
IT
REAL TRUE CRIME
End

INNOVATION™

Sleek, Suave, Sassy & Sexy Stuff!

Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT #9 -- The full-color adaptation of the best-selling novel continues! Adapted by **Faye Perozich**, **Daerick Gross**, and **Sandy Collora**. Cover painting by **John Bolton!**

CELESTIAL MECHANICS #2 -- Three-part B&W mini-series. It's back: The all-new adventures of Widget Wilhelmina Jones! Written by **Kurt Wilcken** -- and illustrated by **Gary Washington**, **Francesco**, and **Keith Aiken**. Wrap-around cover by **Mike Okamoto**!

THE EQUINOX CHRONICLES #1 -- A two-issue B&W mini-series! War is a reality -- and the terrorists must be taken to task! "The Hunter And The Hunted" is written by **Jeff Hendricks**, and illustrated by **Mark Jones** and **Barb Kaalberg**. Wrap-around cover by **Mark Jones** and **Mike Witherby**!

HERO ALLIANCE #13 -- It's Kris's final battle with Bombshell! "Like Father, Like Daughter" is written by **Mark Stadler** -- and illustrated by **Michal Dutkiewicz**. Wrap-around cover my **Michal Dutkiewicz**!

THE JUSTICE MACHINE #7 -- At last, the final chapter to the Justice Machine saga! "Demon, We Hardly Knew Ye" concludes, by **Tony Isabella**, **Josh Watkins**, and **Mike Gustovich**. Wrap-around cover by **Josh Watkins**!

THE LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS #3 -- An all-new 52-page full-color Hero Graphics extravaganza! Written by **Dennis Mallonee**, and illustrated by **Howard Simpson** and a cast of thousands! Cover by **Howard Simpson**!

POWER FACTOR SPECIAL #1 -- Full-color conculsion to the startling super-team saga. "Who Runs This Town, Anyway?" is by **Juaire**, **Clark**, **Harrison**, and **Tighe**! Wrap-around cover by **Scott Clark** and **John Tighe**!

Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC #1-- Full-color four-issue adaptation of the British best-selling *Discworld* novel! This one's fabulous -- wait'll you see it! "A Second-Hand Set of Dimensions" is adapted by **Scott Rockwell**, and fully painted by **Steven Ross**. Cover painting by **Daerick Gross**!

TORCHY #1 -- A special B&W! **Bill Ward**'s classic "Good Girl" strip is back -- with a half-dozen sexy stories! Cover painting by **Olivia DeBerardinis**!

Next Issue:

Dragons And Dungeons And Death...

Oh, My!